

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An automated, computer-implemented method for carrying out financial transactions within a Central Securities Depository (CSD), comprising an automated, computer-implemented clearing process and an automated, computer-implemented settlement process, the clearing process preparing a financial transaction for the settlement process using the following automated, computer-implemented sub-process steps:

- providing a set of settlement rules to be followed in the clearing process,
- selecting, by a computer process, a settlement rule from the set of settlement rules to be followed in the clearing process, the settlement rule defining how the financial transaction is to be settled,
- defining, by a computer process, a settlement ~~obligation~~-instruction group including a number of settlement instructions to be settled at the same time, where the settlement instructions describe obligations of participants to the financial transaction,
- following the selecting and defining steps, locking-in, by a computer process, of the assets to which the financial transaction concerns, the locking-in having the effect of reserving said assets for a specific settlement,

and the settlement process includes the following automated, computer-implemented sub-process steps:

- providing a set of transfer instructions,

- selecting, by a computer process, transfer instructions from the set of transfer instructions for all settlement ~~obligations~~-instructions belonging to said settlement ~~obligation~~-instruction group, said transfer instructions being irrevocable instructions to transfer the locked-in assets between participants in the CSD,
- checking, by a computer process, that said transfer instructions are carried out successfully to complete settlement of the financial transaction, and
- following the selecting and checking steps, reporting, by a computer process, the result of the settlement to ~~the~~ participants involved in the financial transaction.

2. (currently amended) An automated system for carrying out financial transactions within a Central Securities Depository (CSD), said system comprising:

a computer having an input and a output,

wherein the computer is configured to perform an automated function for a clearing process and an automated function for a settlement process, the computer being configured to implement the clearing process function by preparing for a financial transaction ~~for the settlement process~~ using the following computer implemented sub-functions:

- an automated sub-function for the selection from a set of provided settlement rules of a settlement rule to be ~~utilised~~-used in the clearing process, the settlement rule defining how the financial transaction is to be settled,
- an automated sub-function for the definition of a settlement ~~obligation~~-instruction group including a number of settlement instructions to be settled at the same time, where the settlement instructions describe obligations of participants involved in the financial transaction, and

- an automated sub-function for locking-in the assets to which the financial transaction concern, the locking-in having the effect of the system reserving said assets for a specific settlement, and

wherein the computer is configured to perform the settlement process function using the following computer-implemented sub-functions:

- an automated sub-function for selecting transfer instructions from a set of provided transfer instructions for all settlement ~~obligations~~ instructions belonging to said settlement ~~obligation~~ instruction group, said transfer instructions being irrevocable instructions to transfer the locked-in assets between participants in the CSD,
- an automated sub-function for checking that said transfer instructions are carried out successfully to complete the settlement of the financial transaction, and
- an automated sub-function for reporting the result of the settlement to ~~the~~ participants involved in the financial transaction.

3. Canceled.